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1850







# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

71

AT THE ROOMS OF THE

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

IN BOSTON, MAY 29,

AND AT

ANTIQUARIAN HALL.

IN WORCESTER, OCTOBER 23,

1850.



WORCESTER:

PRINTED BY HENRY J. HOWLAND.

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# PROCEEDINGS.

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING,—MAY 29, 1850,

AT THE ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND  
SCIENCES, IN BOSTON.

Hon. Edward Everett, President, in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read by the Secretary.

The Report of the Council to the Society, including the reports of the Treasurer and Librarian to the Council, was presented and read.

*Voted*, That the time of the meeting of the Society in Boston, be changed from the last Wednesday of May to the last Wednesday of April, in each year, and that the By-Laws be amended accordingly.

*Voted*, To accept the Report of the Council, and to refer the same, with that of the Librarian, to the Committee of Publication, for such disposition as may be deemed expedient.

Hon. Stephen Salisbury and Samuel F. Haven, Esq., were appointed a committee to audit the account of the Treasurer, and make their report to the Council.

*Voted*, To dissolve the meeting.

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

MAY 29, 1850.

In presenting their Report at this time, the Council would refer the Society to the Reports that were exhibited at the annual meeting in October, which have since been printed. The general condition of the affairs of the Society, the amount of its resources, the results it has accomplished, and its prospects of future usefulness, are there succinctly stated.

The proceedings that have more recently occupied the attention of the Council, and the expenditures that have since been required, are all that need be dwelt upon now.

In their last Report, the Council alluded to a charge upon the funds for an extinguishment of the claims of heirs to the title of the estate on which the building of the Society is situated. The circumstances connected with that transaction should be more minutely explained. When the late Mr. Thomas made a donation of the estate to the Society, he provided, as is natural and customary, in such cases, that, if the property ceased to be used for the purposes designated, it should revert to his heirs ; and, in his anxiety for the security of the library from fire, after making provision for an apartment to be occupied by the Librarian, he required that neither fire nor lights should be used in the rest of the building.

Mr. Thomas's motives are well understood. He intended that the library should remain in Worcester, and anticipated no objections to the position he had selected. It was in his day centrally situated, and apparently with space enough around it to prevent its being shut in or exposed by other buildings. He would be likely to imagine that no change of location within the town would ever be desired. In his time also no means of warming public edifices unattended with danger had been contrived. It happens that his cautionary requisitions, taken together, have proved to be inconsistent with his great and paramount purpose,—that of preserving for posterity the collections which the Society should accumulate.

The soil where the building stands is filled with springs that press up from beneath and retain a perpetual dampness in the cellar. This, penetrating the rooms above, causes mould and decay destructive to the property, and detrimental to the health of persons exposed to its influence. Without the right to employ even the partial remedy of

heat for so serious an evil, it became the duty of the Council to consider whether the real intentions of the donor were not in danger of being defeated ; and what their obligations as conservators and trustees of an institution, to which the particular spot of ground and the particular edifice were merely incidental conveniences, might require. The growth of the city, while it lessened the desirableness of the location, had impaired its safety. The dangerous neighborhood of manufactories and railroad operations was rapidly changing the character of the position, adapting it rather to the bustle of business, than the repose of literature and science. Under these circumstances common prudence seemed to require that the Council should look forward to measures which they might ultimately be compelled to adopt, and to the possibility of being obliged to deviate from the letter of minor requisitions in order to maintain the greater purpose for which alone those requisitions were made.

By procuring a release from the heirs of Mr. Thomas, of their contingent or reversionary interest, the Society have gained the legal right to make such alterations in the arrangements of the building, or such disposition of the whole estate, as shall be found expedient. The measure was approved by the descendants of Mr. Thomas in Worcester ; and his grandson, Judge Thomas, tendered his services in obtaining the necessary conveyances from other heirs, who were numerous and much scattered in their places of residence. If at any time hereafter private generosity, or associated public spirit, should afford to the institution an opportunity of improving its condition in point of locality, and accommodations for its library and collections, advantage may now be taken of it, without incurring the hazard that a portion of the bounty of its founder might be diverted from the object to which it was meant to be applied.

It is believed that the sum of one thousand dollars could not have been employed in a manner more useful, or more acceptable to the source from whence the funds of the Society were chiefly derived.

Since the last meeting of the Society the attention of the Council has been drawn to a field of antiquarian research, where it is supposed that interesting and curious discoveries may be made. The State of Wisconsin, and the neighboring sections of country, as is well known, have within their limits a peculiar class of mounds, differing essentially from those found elsewhere. These have been denominated *animal mounds*, because their outlines exhibit the forms of various animals. Birds, beasts, and fishes, are imitated in the shapes of these elevations, sometimes on a scale of such magnitude that it is only in

the process of surveying that the forms are developed. Specimens of these singular works have been drawn by United States engineers engaged in surveying those regions ; and some of their forms are shown in the late publication of the Smithsonian Institution. But it is said that comparatively few of those which are known to exist, have yet been explored and described ; and that many more singular than those heretofore noticed remain to be delineated. It is supposed, also, that excavations, judiciously undertaken, will throw some light on the object of their erection, and determine what relation they bear, if any, to the earth-works of the valley of the Mississippi.

The Council did not hesitate, therefore, to entertain a proposition tendered by Mr. J. A. Lapham, a gentleman of Milwaukee, experienced in topographical and other scientific surveys, for a tour of exploration among these mounds on behalf of the Society. An arrangement has accordingly been entered into with Mr. Lapham, who is to spend the summer in making researches and surveys, where the field is most promising, at the expense of the Society ; and to furnish notes and drawings of his discoveries for publication.

The investigation of these anomalous monuments, will yield an appropriate supplement to the volume of the Society's transactions devoted to the subject of western antiquities ; and will perhaps cover all the varieties of such remains that are likely to be discovered.

The means required for the purposes alluded to, have necessarily carried the expenditures of the last six months, beyond the income of the same period. The sum total of the funds at the date of the Treasurer's last report, in October, was \$30,038,33. By his report of May 22, it is \$29,533,88 ; the difference being \$504,45. It appears that, in this interval, \$600 have been paid in obtaining releases from the heirs of Mr. Thomas, in addition to \$300 previously expended ; and \$300 have been advanced to Mr. Lapham, for the outfit &c., of his explorations in Wisconsin.

Under the watchful care of the Treasurer, it has been customary to note an increase of means at each period of his accounts ; and this has sometimes been thought to reflect upon the activity of the Society, as if other uses than that of accumulation should be found for its income. But the expenses to be met at this time, in addition to the cost of the volume now in process of publication, will illustrate the wisdom of reserving the strength of our means for occasions of decided necessity and utility. It will be remembered that this institution, unlike others of a similar kind, by the policy of its founders has been made to depend entirely upon its endowment ; relying for the

means of support and active enterprise upon revenues whose advantages are to be shared with succeeding generations.

The Council have had under consideration the expediency of changing the time of the semi-annual meeting in Boston. By the present arrangement the year is unequally divided. As the last week in May is a period when gentlemen connected with various literary and scientific, as well as benevolent associations, are accustomed to congregate at the metropolis, it was thought to be a favorable time for securing a larger attendance of the members of this Society than could be expected on ordinary occasions. Experience however has proved the fallacy of such a conclusion. Amid the numerous engagements, and multiplied objects of interest, that occupy the attention of gentlemen during that busy week, the number who can find leisure to be present at our meeting is undoubtedly diminished. The meetings are also rendered less satisfactory by the hurry and bustle with which they are surrounded, and by the brevity of time to which they are limited.

The by-laws of the Society require that no alteration of a standing law shall be made until recommended by the Council and adopted at a stated meeting of the Society. The Council therefore take this opportunity to recommend that the time of the semi-annual meeting in Boston be changed from the last Wednesday of May, to the last Wednesday in April of each year.



## ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

In the last Report of the Librarian, reference was made to the increasing inquiry for works of personal history ; and to the fact that, in our library, the department of biography was but imperfectly provided with standard publications of good authority, and of a comprehensive character. The possession of a copy of the "Biographie Universelle," was mentioned, in particular, as a desideratum not likely to be secured except by purchase.

A perfect set of the *Biographie Universelle*, in eighty-two volumes, handsomely bound, has since been quietly placed upon our shelves by one of the Council, Hon. Stephen Salisbury.

Another liberal donation has been received from Rev. Dr. Sprague. With the documents of the Legislature of the State of New York, which are obtained annually through his influence, he has sent a collection of Dutch works, upon miscellaneous subjects, procured at his own expense. The number of volumes, including the public documents, is one hundred and fifty-nine; a very handsome addition to his previous gifts of a similar nature.

Mrs. Edward Bangs, whose late husband was a member of the Society, has presented a series of Registers and Directories, that made a part of his library.

The Hon. Edward Everett has deposited a copy of Allston's "Outlines and Sketches," and other useful tokens of interest; and from Samuel M. Burnside, Esq., Hon. John W. Lincoln, Samuel Jennison, Esq., Hon. Charles Allen, Hon. Frederic Grinke, of Ohio, Rev. Alonzo Hill, Rev. Edward E. Hale, and F. W. Paine, Esq., members of the Society, have been received contributions to our collections.

An extensive donation of newspapers from Rev. Dr. Jenks, deserves particular mention. They are the accumulations of many years; and, in some instances, continuations of series presented by him at a former period.

The Hon. Simon Greenleaf has deposited a fuzee and sword used by his father, Captain Moses Greenleaf, in the War of the Revolution; and a formidable rapier, the trophy of his combat with a Hessian soldier at the battle of Monmouth. Numerous single and smaller favors received from various sources, have been gratefully acknowledged and duly entered upon record.

Publications have been received from the following institutions,—viz: the New Jersey Historical Society; the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the Société de Géographie, of Paris; the Maryland Historical Society; the American Philosophical Society; the Smithsonian Institution; the New York State Library, and the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The accessions in books since last October, are, altogether, three hundred and thirty volumes; and the number of pamphlets is one hundred and sixty-eight. A collection of handbills and cards, a few copper coins, and some engraved heads, complete the list.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

OCTOBER 23, 1850,

AT ANTIQUARIAN HALL, IN WORCESTER.

Hon. John Davis, Vice President, in the Chair.

The Report of the Council, embracing the reports of the Treasurer and the Librarian, was presented.

The several Reports having been read, it was voted to refer them to the Committee of Publication, with instructions to print such portions as they should deem expedient.

Hon. Isaac Davis and Hon. John W. Lincoln, were chosen a Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

On motion of Hon. Charles Allen, it was voted : That a Committee be appointed to consider that part of the Report of the Council which relates to repairs and alterations of the Library Building, and the erection of a new building on some other site ; and that said Committee, if they shall deem it expedient, may, with the concurrence of the Council, purchase a suitable lot for the purpose last mentioned.

Hon. Charles Allen, Hon. Isaac Davis, and Hon. Stephen Salisbury, were selected to constitute said Committee.

William Thomas, Esq., of Boston, having been recommended by the Council, was elected a member of the Society.

Voted,—To proceed to the choice of officers for the ensuing year.

A Committee of nomination, consisting of Hon. John W. Lincoln, Hon. Emory Washburn, and Hon. Stephen Salisbury, having reported a list of names for that purpose, the following gentlemen were voted for by ballot, and unanimously chosen,—viz :

*President.*

HON. EDWARD EVERETT, LL. D., of Cambridge.

*Vice Presidents.*

HON. JOHN DAVIS, LL. D., of Worcester.

REV. WILLIAM B. SPRAGUE, D. D., of Albany, N. Y.

*Council.*

HON. LEVI LINCOLN, LL. D.,	of Worcester.
HON. JAMES C. MERRILL,	" Boston.
REV. CHARLES LOWELL, D. D.,	" Boston.
FREDERICK WM. PAINE, ESQ.,	" Worcester.
JOHN GREEN, M. D.,	" Worcester.
JOSEPH WILLARD, ESQ.,	" Boston.
HON. EMORY WASHBURN,	" Worcester.
HON. STEPHEN SALISBURY,	" Worcester.
HON. ALFRED D. FOSTER.	" Worcester.
HON. ISAAC DAVIS,	" Worcester.

*Secretary of Foreign Correspondence.*

JARED SPARKS, LL. D., of Cambridge.

*Secretary of Domestic Correspondence.*

HON. BENJAMIN F. THOMAS, of Worcester.

*Recording Secretary.*

HON. REJOICE NEWTON, of Worcester.

*Treasurer.*

SAMUEL JENNISON, ESQ., of Worcester.

*Committee of Publication.*

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, ESQ., of Worcester.

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, " Worcester.

GEORGE LIVERMORE, ESQ., " Boston.

*Voted,* To dissolve the meeting.



## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

OCTOBER 23, 1850.

The Council of the American Antiquarian Society respectfully present their annual Report.

Most of the matters of interest to the Society are embraced in the reports of the Treasurer and Librarian herewith submitted.

By the report of the Treasurer it will be seen that the balance of the funds in his hands on the fifteenth of the present month was \$29,677,96.

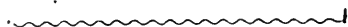
The additions to the library since our semi-annual meeting, consist of one hundred and thirty volumes, and two hundred and sixty-eight pamphlets, besides newspapers, handbills, and other miscellaneous material, which help to make up the record of the times, and will furnish valuable material for the future historian.

The Librarian states that further accommodations are needed for the library. The Council would suggest that the time has arrived when the Society should determine whether any changes should be made in the library-building. One of three things seems to be indispensable. That we should raise, enlarge, and thoroughly repair the present building, and thoroughly drain the ground beneath and around it; or that we should construct a new fire-proof building upon the same premises; or that we should dispose of the present building and lot, (as the releases of the heirs leave it in the power of the Society to do,) and purchase a new lot of more convenient access, and erect upon it a substantial fire-proof building, of size sufficient to meet the future wants of the Society. If the second and last of these courses seem beyond the pecuniary ability of the Society, with the aid it might reasonably expect from its friends, then it seems to your Committee the first course should at once be adopted; the building we now occupy, is going *rapidly* to decay. Our books are suffering from the constant dampness of the library rooms; they are almost inaccessible to persons having a tolerable regard to their health; and even the apartment occupied by the librarian, is damp and unhealthy.

Some change therefore seems to be a matter of *necessity*: a wise economy would require that the change be made at the earliest period possible.

Since our last meeting, has been published, the first part of the volume devoted to "the Records of the Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England." The part now published constitutes about one-fourth of the volume. This work has been prepared by our excellent Librarian, and it is believed will be honorable to the Society and useful to the public. The Council would do injustice to Mr. Haven if they omitted to speak of the thoroughness, accuracy, and fidelity, with which his duty as Editor has thus far been discharged. Their obligations are also due to the printers, for the correctness and beauty of the typography. The Council are making arrangements for the distribution of a large portion of the edition, with a view to its extensive circulation and preservation, and also as a slight return for the courtesies the Society is receiving from kindred associations.

In the death of Samuel M. Burnside, Esq., of this city, the Society has lost one of its earliest and firmest friends. He was, from the institution of the Society, a member of the Council. Though for some time before his decease he had withdrawn from the more active duties of life, his interest in its welfare and his fidelity to its interests were never abated. He brought to the discharge of his duties urbanity of manners, extensive and accurate learning, and a strong, discriminating mind.



## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

It appears, by the entries, that, since the semi-annual meeting in May, accessions to the Society's collections have been received from the following sources, viz.

James Lennox, Esq. of New York.  
 Dr. George Chandler, of Worcester.  
 Mr. C. B. Nason, of Worcester.  
 Rev. Samuel C. Damon, of Honolulu, Sandwich Isles.  
 Rev. William B. Sprague, D. D., of Albany, N. Y.  
 The American Statistical Association.  
 The Maryland Historical Society.  
 Hon. E. R. Hoar, of Concord.

Dr. N. B. Shurtleff, of Boston.  
 F. W. Paine, Esq., of Worcester.  
 The State of New York.  
 Rev. Daniel Dana, D. D., of Newburyport.  
 J. H. Trumbull, Esq., of Hartford, Conn.  
 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.  
 Hon. Charles Allen, of Worcester.  
 John C. B. Davis, Esq., of London, G. B.  
 Hon. Edward Everett, of Cambridge.  
 Rev. John Woart, of Boston.  
 Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Boston.  
 The Royal Geographical Society of London.  
 The Société de Géographie de Paris.  
 The New Jersey Historical Society.  
 The Redwood Library, Newport.  
 Mr. John Mellish, of Worcester.  
 Wm. T. Harris, Esq., of Cambridge.  
 George Livermore, Esq., of Cambridge.  
 Professor North, of Hamilton College, N. Y.  
 Mr. A. B. Davenport, of Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Hon. John W. Lincoln, of Worcester.  
 Edward W. Lincoln, Esq., of Worcester.  
 Freeman Hunt, Esq., of New York.  
 The Boston Mercantile Library Association.  
 The American Peace Society.  
 Rev. F. A. Whitney, of Brighton.  
 Rev. Edward E. Hale, of Worcester.  
 Rev. Warren Burton, of Worcester.  
 Rev. Alonzo Hill, of Worcester.  
 John M. Earle, Esq., of Worcester.  
 Rev. John L. Sibley, of Cambridge.  
 The Editors of the Boston Courier.  
 The Editors of the Christian Watchman.  
 Rev. Preston Cummings, of Dighton.

In some instances, donations have been received from anonymous sources. The total increase consists of 130 volumes and 268 pamphlets; besides newspapers, handbills, cards, and miscellaneous matters of a class whose value is derived chiefly from aggregation and arrangement.

These additions have been before the Council, and need not be particularly described. It may be remarked, however, that those members of the Society, who have deposited publications from their own pens, are Hon. Edward Everett, Dr. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, George Livermore, Esq., Rev. Alonzo Hill, and Rev. Wm. B. Sprague.

Another apartment for the accommodation of the library is very much needed ; and the Council will have occasion to consider in what way the necessary space can be afforded. The entry and passage ways might be made use of by lining them with shelves ; and perhaps it will be deemed advisable to adopt that course, although involving the displacement of the maps and pictures from the walls, and the very difficult matter of finding other places in which to put them.

The Librarian was instructed, some time since, to consider the expediency of printing a new catalogue of the library.

There are no problems in art or science that have been found more perplexing in practice, or more incapable of a satisfactory theoretical solution, than the arrangement of libraries, and the preparation of catalogues. Men have become insane in their efforts to reduce these labors to a system ; and several instances are recorded where life has been sacrificed in consequence of the mental and physical exertion required for the completion of a catalogue in accordance with the author's view of the proper method of executing such a task. The result of all past attempts to establish fixed principles for the attainment of these objects has been, that no system of arrangement has yet received the sanction of any authoritative literary tribunal ; while the managers of the principal libraries in Europe are regarding with despondency the prospect of completing such a list of their books as will represent with accuracy and distinctness their identical character.

Although upon a smaller scale, the same difficulties experienced in the libraries of Europe exist in relation to our own. Indeed, an antiquarian collection, from its very nature, embraces a larger share of these difficulties than any other. The necessity of distinctness, and even minuteness, of description, is very much in proportion to the rarity or peculiarity of the work. Hume's History of England, or Milton's Paradise Lost, need only to be named to be recognized at once ; but any treatise by either of those writers, which is seldom consulted and little known, requires a fuller title, and a more exact representation of its peculiarities.

There is another important consideration connected with the preparation of a catalogue of the library of this Society. It might be

comparatively easy to write proper titles for the eighteen or nineteen thousand volumes upon the shelves ; but the untold number of single pamphlets, whose titles are often far more prolix and obscure, and which constitute one of the most cherished and valuable peculiarities of our collections, will place these collections by the side of some of the largest libraries in regard to the seriousness of the task of presenting their contents in an intelligible form to the public.

Impressed with these views, and aware that Professor Jewett, of the Smithsonian Institution, in addition to much practical experience, had made the preparation of catalogues the subject of particular study, the librarian sought the benefit of his advice. This application seems to have given a new impulse to a plan long cherished by Prof. Jewett, of publishing, on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, a general catalogue of all the works to be found in the libraries of this country. This scheme embraced many points of importance, besides merely furnishing a list of books. One, of very great moment, was to secure uniformity in the expression of titles ; and not only uniformity, but the best and most accurate method of expression. To accomplish this, it was proposed to make the Smithsonian Institution the head quarters of such operations, and the supervisor of the catalogues that should hereafter be printed for the several libraries of the United States ; a plan which could be rendered practicable only by some mode of preserving the types, or plates, of titles which had once been prepared, so that they could be used again and again, as often as different catalogues were required ; and to that extent avoiding a repetition of labor and expense. It would thus, in respect both to labor and cost, become an object to local libraries, wishing a catalogue, to employ the materials already provided by the Smithsonian Institution, and to add any new titles they might possess to the common stock.

Prof. Jewett's idea was to stereotype each title by itself. Thus at every new impression new arrangements could be adopted, and new titles be inserted, at pleasure ; and, at the same time, all necessity of large editions be obviated, since a reprint would be so easy of attainment at so small an expense.

The advantages of the scheme are too obvious to require enumeration. Accuracy, uniformity, and economy, combined, are attributes which render its value apparent ; its practicability might be thought more questionable.

The feasibility of so stereotyping separate titles, as to give the plates the requisite firmness, was a point to be settled ; and to this matter a member of our Society, Rev. Mr. Hale, was induced by his

interest in the subject, to give particular attention. He ascertained by experiment, that if the metal ordinarily used was incompetent to the purpose, plates could be made by the electrotype process that would answer perfectly, and at the same time furnish a sharper and more durable edge to the letters ; the first cost, however, being considerably greater. But the cost was a consideration only to the Smithsonian Institution, by whom, as the ultimate owners of the plates, it was proposed that the expense of stereotyping should in all cases be defrayed.

The discovery of a new material for stereotyping, recently made public, if it bears the test of experiment, is likely to make a revolution in that art, and to reduce its expense very far below existing rates. That portion of Mr. Jewett's plan, therefore, bids fair to prove easy of accomplishment, and will assist in bringing to pass the other portions connected with it.

The principal of these, is the adoption of a set of uniform rules for the preparation of catalogues.

Prof. Jewett has studied this subject with great care ; and believing that the time had arrived for testing the principles he had adopted, the whole scheme was submitted to the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. According to the custom of that body, the matter was referred to a Commission selected from the country at large, whose report should serve as a basis for their own official action. This commission, of which the President of our Society is Chairman, have carefully examined and digested the plan of Mr. Jewett ; and their report may be so far anticipated as to state that the system of rules, printed as revised in the paper herewith exhibited, received their approval ; and that the practicability of stereotyping titles by one or other of the modes exhibited to them, appeared to be satisfactorily established. Probabilities seemed also to be in favor of the success of that cheaper method which bids fair to obviate every objection on the score of expense.

The Commission will recommend the publication of a catalogue of the library of Congress, (now much required) under the supervision of the officers of the Smithsonian Institution, and in the manner proposed by Prof. Jewett. If that recommendation is adopted, as there is reason to believe it may be, all titles that are common to that library and our own, will be thus provided for our use. As it is a valuable feature of this plan, that any titles may be stereotyped as soon as they are written, without reference to order or connection, the process of cataloguing those works which are known to be peculiar to

our collections, might be carried on simultaneously; unless it should be deemed advisable to wait till the experiment has been fully tried elsewhere.

The arrangement which the Librarian was instructed to make with Mr. I. A. Lapham, of Milwaukie, Wisconsin, for an exploration and survey of the peculiar aboriginal works of that region, was completed early in the spring. By letter dated the 16th of April, Mr. Lapham was authorised to draw on the Treasurer of the Society for the sum of \$300 at sight, and for \$200 more at such time subsequently as his expenses might render it necessary. It was understood that operations were to be commenced when the state of the soil would permit; as soon, at least, as the first of June.

The first mentioned sum of \$300 has been drawn by Mr. Lapham, but the second sum yet remains uncalled for.

The following letter, received a few days since, will exhibit the progress that gentleman has thus far made in his surveys and researches.

MILWAUKIE, WIS., OCT. 2, 1850.

DEAR SIR:—

You have probably expected some report of the progress made in my "Archæological Survey" of Wisconsin; and perhaps I should have written before this time.

In May I commenced operations by making sundry excursions in the vicinity, and towards the last of June I commenced a grand tour extending nearly across the State, visiting Aztalan—which is now thoroughly surveyed, and many new and interesting facts ascertained—also Madison, the Wisconsin river, &c. I have thus gone over the southern part of the State, except along the immediate valley of the Mississippi; and it only remains to visit the central and northern portions.

I send you a few hastily prepared drawings of some of the more remarkable of the animals discovered.

Some excavations of a peculiar character have been found in different parts of the State, of which you will find a drawing enclosed.

In many cases the survey was attended with much difficulty on account of the dense growth of underbrush, by which the mounds were covered.

The animals, especially in the eastern part of the State, appear to be all headed in a southerly direction; a fact that may suggest some theory as to their design.

I have accumulated quite a mass of notes, drawings, topographical sketches, &c., which will require some labor to arrange in the form of an essay. In doing this, shall I make the drawings of suitable size for engraving?—and if so, what size is most convenient for your “Transactions?”

I fear I shall not be able to complete the survey this season. I find it much better to work in the spring and autumn, than in the summer, when the bushes are covered with foliage. It is my design to devote most of this month to the work.

Very truly yours,

I. A. LAPHAM.

The drawings accompanying this letter are curious, and very neatly executed. One of the earth-works, evidently intended to represent a bird, is 189 feet in length between the tips of the wings.

Two other mounds, representing animals, one of which Mr. Lapham calls a Buffalo, and the other a Behemoth, are each over 100 feet in length.

Not less curious than these are earthworks, apparently in the form of weapons or implements. Some of them resemble the clubs with knotted heads, which, when armed with pointed stone or metal, are known to have been the original tomahawks. They vary in length from 200 to 300 feet.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. F. HAVEN, LIBBARIAN.















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American Antiquarian Society,  
Worcester, Mass.  
Proceedings

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